

5th Sunday in Lent - April 6, 2025
Homily by Bp. Romie- Jun Peñalosa

One of the things my father really hated when we were small, pinakaayaw ng tatay ko yung nagsisinungaling kami. That is why mas mabuti pa pag nagkamali ka, if you make a mistake, mas mabuti pang sabihin mo na kaagad sa tatay mo yung pagkakamali mo. Pag ikaw'y nauna nagsabi, hindi ka na napapalo. Okay? O minsan, imbis na limang palo, isa na lang. Bumababa yung sentensya mo pag umamin ka ng kasalanan mo. Because my father really hates lying. He cannot tolerate someone who lies to him. Hindi niya kayang nagsisinungaling ka. So one time, I made a mistake. And my father came to me and looked me in the eye. Pero sa sobrang takot ko, natatakot akong mapalo. Tinanong niya ako kung ako ba ang gumawa ng kasalanan. Hindi po ako umamin. Sa sobrang tindi ng takot kong mapalo ako, nagsinungaling ako sa tatay ko. And my father took me at my word. He believed in what I said. Pag alis ng tatay ko, di nalibre ako sa palo dahil nagsinungaling ako. Hindi ko inako yung kasalanan ko. But my mother, my mother saw everything I did. Alam ng nanay kung ginawa ko. And my mother came to me. Ang sabi ng nanay ko lang sa akin, sabi niya, I saw everything. Nakita kong lahat na ginawa mo. So natakot ako. Kasi pag sinumbong niya sa tatay ko, medyo malaki na yung sentensya ko. So my mom said, I saw everything you did. And iniisip ko magsusumbong na talaga siya. And iniisip ko magsusumbong na talaga siya. But this is what my mom, praise God para sa mga nanay, salamat talaga sa Diyos. May mga nanay tayo. Ang sabi ng nanay ko sa akin, itong sabi niya, If you promise me not to do it again, if you can promise me not to do it again, I will not tell. If you promise me na hindi mo na talagang uulitin yan, na magsisinungaling ka sa tatay mo, I will not tell your father about it. And I promised her. And I promised her. This is very important that we understand that in the very heart of justice, God executes His justice, but in the very heart of justice is His compassion for us. God executes His judgment, but He does it out of a heart that truly loves. And the gospel today speaks of these things and we need to understand what lesson we need na makukuha natin sa gospel natin. But before we go to the gospel, let us look at first the Old Testament reading. Our clergies in Visayas just came back from the retreat. And one of the things we discussed and the basic things that we discussed in the retreat was being mindful of God. To be mindful of God is not to think of God only of the past. Not only to think of the works, the things that God did for you in the past. Minsan yun lang iniisip natin yung mga nakaraan na. And sometimes we think of what is still in the future. And because we think so much of what is in the future, ano nangyayari pag masyado nating iniisip yung hindi pa nangyayari, future pa lang, we become worried and anxious. Paano yan bukas? Wala akong pera. Wala kaming kakainin. Paano mga bata? Paano sila pag nag-college sila? Kinder pala yung anak mo ha, iniisip mo na yung pag-college niya. Paano pag-college niya? Wala tayong pang-bayad sa school, you know. We dwell so much in the future that we worry a lot. Yung mga nakaraan naman, nandun palaging isip nila. When our mind dwells in the past, we become sad. Nalulungkot tayo. We will have so many regrets. Sana itong ginawa ko. Sana ito na lang yung ginawa ko.

Sana itong sinabi ko. We will have so many regrets.
And that's the problem with me.
Madali lang talaga.
It's so easy for us to dwell in the future and to dwell in the past.
Diyan lang tayo tumatawid-tawid lang tayo.
We become worried, we become stressed out and anxious because we always think of tomorrow.
Paano na lang? Paano na lang bukas?
We become worried, we become stressed out and anxious because we always think of tomorrow.
Paano na lang? Paano na lang bukas?
We think of tomorrow. Paano na lang? Paano na lang bukas?
Tapos maraming ding Krisyanong nalulungkot kasi palagi iniisip noon kasi ganito, noon kasi ganito.
Inaway ako. Binastos ako. Pinahiya ako noon.
And we cannot get over it.
We cannot move on when we continue to dwell in the past.
We get stuck in our Christian life.
We never grow, we do not move forward because we either live in the future or in the past.
Our first reading reminds us, sabi ng Diyos,
Now, I am doing something great in your life. Now.
Can you not see it?
Hindi niyo ba nakikita yung ginagawa ko para sa iyo ngayon?
Why? Because we always look and worry of the future and we think back of the past and become sad.
Let us be mindful of the present moment.
Yan ang retreat namin ng mga pare.
We talked about being present with God today at this very moment in your life.
Not thinking of the future, not thinking of the past, but keeping your mind in the present.
Not thinking of the past, but keeping your mind full of what is in the present moment of your life.
Because the present moment of your life, that is where God embraces you now.
Can you tell the person beside you, God is embracing you now?
God is doing something great in your life now.
Don't worry about the future.
Don't worry about the future.
What is important is now, God is here with us embracing you.
May babayaran ako, Bishop. Napakalaki ng babayaran ko. Kailan? Next week. Next week pa yun.
Bakit hindi ka nakakain? Bakit hindi ka na natutulog? Next week pa yun.
Enjoy the present moment now. God is with you.
Do not worry about tomorrow. Why? Because tomorrow will take care of itself.
Amen? Amen.
We have to be present in the moment.
God is doing something good, something great in your life. It begins now.
Itong sinasabi ng prophet, can you not see it?
Can you not perceive what God is doing now?
Are you still worried? Are you still sad because of the past?
Think of what is God doing now in your life.
Second reading speaks of the sufferings Saint Paul was writing.
Sabi ni Saint Paul, I have all the credentials in the world but when I met Jesus,
everything I have in the world, I consider them garbage.
Compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Jesus.
What is He trying to tell us?
Jesus is trying to present Himself to you now.
Meron ka bang problemang hinaharap ngayon sa buhay mo?
Meron ka bang hinaharap na krisis sa buhay mo?
It is an opportunity for you to know Jesus.
You may go through the difficulties of life but in every step of the way,
Christ is there sharing with you your suffering.
Amen?

Can we not see that in our life?
Lahat na pinagdadaanan natin sa buhay natin, hindi tayong nag-iisa.
We are not alone.
God is always with us.
Christ is always with you.
And no matter how difficult it is that you're going through,
it is an opportunity to know Jesus in the midst of the problems you are facing.
Amen?
And this is something that Paul is telling us.
The sufferings that we're going through right now,
the sufferings that we're going through right now,
the changes,
you know, sometimes kung magbabago ang buhay natin,
sometimes it is difficult when your life changes.
Yung mga taong dating sumasahod ng malaki,
then when they come to retirement, wala nang sahod.
It's a change of life.
And some people cannot cope with it.
Yung mga politicians natin, nandati nasa pwesto sila,
tapos natalo na sa eleksyon.
Sometimes they find it hard na wala na silang posisyon sa lipunan.
And some people will fight for it.
Kaya nauso sa Pilipinas, recall,
Talo na nga, magre-recall pa.
Di na doble yung talo mo pag inulit-ulit yung eleksyon.
Because they hold on to position.
They cannot let go.
Life is constantly changing for us.
Nagbabago ang buhay.
Dati, kaya kong tumakbo.
Pag nag-sumasayaw-sayaw ako sa sobrang tuwa ko,
kaya ko pang tumalun.
I can jump for a long time while dancing.
For a long time while dancing.
Ngayon, nasa isip ko na lang.
Pag tumalin ako, one inch lang yung talon ko.
You know? My body is changing.
My attitude is changing.
Everything around me is changing already.
When we transition, we suffer.
We suffer the inconveniences.
We suffer the discomfort.
Dati nung nasa Antike ako,
pagdating ng alas 8, alas 9,
nasa dreamland na ako, natutulog na ako.
And I'm enjoying my life.
I'm enjoying my sleep.
Now, alauna ng umaga, may text na sa'yo.
Bishop, may problema ako.
One o'clock in the morning.
Wala ng oras.
Gisingin ka ng alauna.
Bubuhos niya yung problema niya sa'yo.
Pagkatapos niyang ibuhos yung problema,
sasabihin niya, thank you Bishop ha,
naantok na ako, matutulog na ako.
Sabi ko, good for you.
Ako hindi na, gising na.
So gising na gising na ako, hindi na ako makatulog.
Then, pagdating ng alas 5, hindi ka makatulog.
Pagdating ng 5.30, inaantok ka na.
E hindi na pwede matulog kasi mag-o-office.
O, prayer na.
So wala nang tulog.

Life is changing.
I went to the barber shop.
Nagpagupit ako.
Sabi ko sa barbero, tanggalin mo yung pulbo.
Ang daming pulbo yung buhok ko.
Sabi ng barbero,
father naman, hindi na pulbo yan.
Uban mo't aron.
So nakita ko, puti na pala yung buhok ko.
Akala ko pulbo lang.
And sometimes we suffer when we begin to change.
And Paul said, don't worry about that.
Because in the midst of suffering,
if we seek, we will choose.
If we seek, we will truly find.
We will know Jesus
in the midst of our suffering.
At itong sinasabi niya,
everything that I have enjoyed in life,
everything that I have,
I have in life,
I consider them garbage
compared to knowing Jesus.
To know Christ
is superior than anything else in our life.
There is nothing that compares with Him.
Okay?
Let's go to the gospel today.
Our gospel today speaks of
God's compassion for us.
We have to change
and we have to grow.
To grow in your spiritual life,
you have to change.
Maraming taong gusto mag-mature sa spiritual life,
pero ayaw mag-bago ng ugali.
It will not happen.
Amen?
Father, gusto ko maging mature,
pero ayaw ko mag-bago.
Pwede ba yun?
Pwede ba yan?
Gusto mo maging mature kay Kristo,
pero hindi ka nagbabago.
To grow spiritually,
to grow mature in Christ,
you have to be willing to change.
Amen?
That's why the people
the people in our gospel today,
they caught a woman in adultery.
In the act of adultery.
May nahuli silang babae.
In the act of adultery,
they caught her
and they brought her to Jesus.
Not because they seek justice.
Not because they want to obey the law of Moses.
The law of Moses says
Anong sinasabi ng law ng Moses?
If a woman or a man is caught in adultery,
they should be stoned to death.
Papatayin sila by stoning them to death.
That is the law.

Sabi ng iba,
nakakatakot naman yung layin na yan.
Kung natatakot ka sa layin na yan,
huwag mong gawin yung pag-aapid.
Huwag kang mangbababae.
Huwag kang manglalalaki.
But this woman definitely was caught in the act of adultery.
The Pharisees saw this an opportunity to trap Jesus.
Kinuha nila yung babae.
Gagamitin nila yung kasalanan ng babae
to trap Jesus.
Papano nila itatrap si Lord?
Okay?
Sasabihin nila, Lord, oh nahuli namin to.
The law of Moses demands that she should be stoned to death.
If Jesus would say,
no, no, don't stone her to death,
then Jesus is in violation of the law of Moses.
Pero pag sinabi naman ni Jesus,
sige, sige, batuhin niyo yan, patayin niyo yan,
then Jesus will become guilty of violating Roman law
because the Jews were not allowed to sentence anyone to death
because they were under Roman rule.
So kung ano man ang sagot ni Jesus doon,
Jesus will be trapped.
And so they brought this woman to Jesus,
judging the woman
because they caught her in the act of adultery.
Now take note.
Papatayin niyo yung isang tao
dahil gusto niyo lang subukan ang isang tao.
You're not mindful of the life of that woman.
Ipapahiya nila yung babae,
they will put her to shame,
then they will kill her
simply,
simply
for their own personal agenda
of testing Jesus.
Wala na tayong pahalaga sa buhay ng tao.
Hindi man lang tayo naaawa minsan
sa mga taong kinukundina natin.
Dapat patayin na yan.
Amen?
They came to Christ
demanding,
they demand,
she should be stoned to death.
That's the law of Moses.
And Jesus was writing on the ground.
I really don't know. Ang daming kwento doon.
Ano bang sinusulat niya?
Basta alam ko lang si Jesus marunong pala magsulat.
He knows how to write.
He was writing on the ground.
Ang sabi ng iba,
ginagawa daw ni Jesus yun
para ma-intrimis na ma-intrimis talaga yung mga Pharisees.
Parang hindi niya pinapansin.
He was writing on the ground.
And I believe so.
I believe that God,
when it comes to our sin,
it's no big deal for Him.

Akala kasi natin na bubulabog ang Diyos
pag nagkasala tayo.
Nabubulabog ang Diyos
every time we sin,
every time may nagawa tayong mali
ang Diyos natin ay talagang
nagwawala,
nagagalit,
nagwawild ang Diyos
pag nagkamali tayo.
And we see Christ here.
They were reporting to Him,
this woman has been caught
committing adultery
and Jesus was just writing on the ground.
Writing and writing.
I think,
hindi ako sigurado,
but what was written on the ground
was commandment number 6
of the 10 commandments.
What is commandment number 6?
Thou
shalt not
commit
adultery.
Sinusulat ni Lord doon.
They were condemning her.
Kinukondem nila
ng babae.
And Jesus seems like
He's not interested with the sin.
Eh bakit lahat ng tao
interesado talaga?
Talagang gigil,
nagigil sila sa kasalanan ng babae na yan.
They're so excited.
They don't care about
the life of that person.
They were so excited about the sin
and how it should be
punished.
And here comes Christ
who's not interested of sin.
You know why?
When you know
that sin has been taken
away from you,
you don't like
to talk about sin.
I have failed
and sinned many times
and God forgave me
of my sins.
A person
who is good
and focus
on God's goodness
and kindness
does not desire
to punish sin.
Alam mo sinong talagang
interesado
to punish sin?

People who are still
in sin.
Amen?
When you see someone
who is judgmental,
when you see someone
who is so quick
to judge his brother or sister,
that person
is still
in sin.
Why was Jesus not
interested in sin?
Why?
Because He has
no sin.
Wala siyang kasalanan.
Kaya minsan sinasabi natin
ang magnanakaw
ay galit sa
kapwang magnanakaw
kasi pareho sila.
And the more we are judgmental
and we're interested in the sin
of other people,
it simply shows
that we are still living in sin.
Ba't ka nanggigigil
sa kasalanan ng kapatid mo
kasi
ganon ka rin.
Hindi kagaya ng kasalanan niya.
Pero meron ka rin
kasalanan palagi sa puso mo.
Kaya nga, gigil na gigil ka
sa kasalanan ng ibang tao.
But Christ,
because of His loving kindness,
His compassion for people,
He's not interested in sin.
He's interested
in lifting up
a person
that has been bowed down
by sin.
Naranasan mo na yung
may kasalanan ka,
pinatawad ka,
at alam mo
kung anong ginawa ng Diyos
para sa'yo.
When you see someone
in the same problem as you,
knowing that God forgave you,
you will be
having compassion
with that person.
Maintindihan mo kung anong nararamdaman
ng tao na yan.
Diba?
Christ,
His heart is for that woman
who is now
put to shame

because of sin.
Yan ang kasalanan eh.
Pag hindi mo pa ginagawa,
parang maganda yung prospect
pag hindi mo pa ginagawa.
But once you do sin,
when you commit the sin,
shame
will be on you.
And when you commit the sin,
shame comes in.
Mapapahiya ka talaga.
Amen?
And eventually,
death will come into your life.
God knows that.
Jesus knows that.
She knows,
Jesus knows
the shame
that that woman
is going through.
Jesus understands
that this woman
is headed
to death.
Papatayin na siya.
She will be stoned to death.
Jesus understands that.
But He is Savior.
He is Messiah.
He is the one who comes
to save us.
He is not the one
who came to judge
and destroy our lives.
No, that's not Jesus.
And so, they insisted.
Mag-ingat tayo
kasi sa simbahan,
sa simbahan,
lahat tayo'y makasalanan.
Pero nagtatago lang tayo
kasi pag nahuli tayo,
baka batuhin din tayo.
That's why we conceal our sin.
We hide our sin.
Nung tinanong ko,
sige, mag-confession tayo.
Walang nagko-confession.
We would rather keep our sin
to ourselves.
But take note,
the sin that you keep
for yourself
are the sin that keeps
on repeating itself
on your life.
You will never overcome
the sin
once you keep it
to yourself.
Bakit ka?
Bakit mo tinatago

sa sarili mo?
Kay Lord na lang
i-confess.
Yeah.
Madali sabihin kay Lord.
Kasi sasabihin mo lang,
Lord, sorry ha.
Ulitin ko na naman mamaya.
Anong sabihin ni Lord?
Ay, ang bait-bait ni Lord.
Okay lang daw.
Pero subukan mo,
kwento mo sa pare yan.
Father, nambababae ako.
Anong sasabihin ng pare sa'yo?
Tama na yan.
Tigilan mo na yan.
And we don't want to hear that.
But the sins we keep
in our hearts
are the sins
that are very dangerous.
Tandaan niyan yan.
Yung kasalanan
na tinatago mo
sa puso mo,
yan ang mga kasalanan
na pwedeng pumatay sa'yo.
That's why you don't
hide and conceal your sin.
You bring it to Christ.
Bring it to the open
so that God
can heal that sin.
God can heal your heart
from that sin
and release you
from that sin.
I like what Jesus answered
when He stood up.
Nung pinilit nila,
pinilit si Jesus,
finally God's
Christ stood up
and this is what He said
to the crowd.
Anyone of you
who has not sinned,
you cast the first stone.
Kung sino sa inyo
ang walang kasalanan,
it's not your fault.
Kung sino sa inyo
ang walang kasalanan,
siya ang unang babato
sa babaing ito.
Bago mo tingnan
yung babaing yan
at yung kasalanan niya,
pakitingin muna
sa sarili mo.
Tingnan mo nga muna
yung sarili mo.
Why don't you look

at yourself first?
Ito ang sinasabi ni Lord.
Kung sino walang kasalanan,
siya ang unang babato.
Hindi na pag-isip sila.
They started to reflect.
They started to think.
Lent is a time of reflection.
Lent is a time
that we think.
Huwag yung isipin
yung kasalanan ng iba.
Because thinking
of the sins of others,
judging others
because of their sin,
will not save you
will not save you.
Akala kasi natin
pag may nahuli kang taong
makasalanan,
sobra yung kasalanan,
akala mo nawawala
yung kasalanan mo,
ay, mas mabait pala ako
compared sa kanya.
Hindi po.
Judging someone
of their sin
does not diminish
your own sins.
Judging someone
because of their failures
and weakness
does not cleanse you
from your own sin.
It will not.
May feeling ka lang
na maganda.
Pag may nahuli
magnanakaw,
sasabihin mo,
ay, naku, ay, naku,
magnanakaw pala yan.
Ay, Jesus name,
magnanakaw.
Think in your life.
How many times
have you stolen,
taken
something that is not yours?
How many times
in your life?
Ay, Bishop,
hindi ko talaga ginagawa yan.
Talaga?
Perfect ba
yung tithing mo?
Perfect ba
yung tithe mo?
When we
withhold our tithe,
we are stealing
from God.

And stealing from God
makes you a thief.
Yung oras mo,
yung oras natin sa trabaho,
minsan,
alas 5 yung uwi,
eh, umuwi na lahat
ng alas 3,
sabihin mo,
sige, 4 o'clock ako,
para 1 hour lang yung
kuha ko.
Ganun pa rin yun.
Nakaw pa rin yun.
We sin.
Why,
why reflect
on the sins of others
when
God calls us
to reflect
on our own sins?
We are not called
to judge others
and condemn others.
What we are called
to do
is to reflect
on our own sins
and to help
others.
Hindi katinawag
ng Diyos
para tulungan siya
na ikundina
yung ibang tao.
God did not call you.
It's not your calling
to judge people
and condemn people.
Why do you do it?
Why do you do it?
Why are we like
the religious Pharisees
who'd like to
condemn people
and judge people?
Judge God's children.
Yung ginadjudge mo,
anak din ng Diyos yan.
Hindi ka ba natatakot
sa tatay niyan?
If you're going to reflect
on sin,
it's not the sin
of others
that you should reflect on.
You should reflect
only of your own sins.
Think of your own sins,
not the sins of others.
So anong gagawin ko
sa ibang tao?
You're supposed to

help them
overcome
their sins.
Kaya nagustuhan ko
yung nanay ko,
sabi niya,
if you promise me
you will not do it again,
I will never tell your father.
And it stuck to my mind.
Mercy,
mercy
triumphs
over sin.
And it's not
the sin
of others
that you should
triumphs
over judgment
because when you
extend mercy
and kindness
to other people,
it could change
their lives.
But when you judge
someone,
that will not
change his life
anymore.
It's the mercy
of God,
the kindness of God.
We reflect.
Kaya nung sinabi ni Lord,
okay,
kung sinong walang kasalanan,
batuhin niyo na
yung babae.
Napaisip sila.
Everyone was able
to think
of their own sin.
And nung naalala nila
at nakita nila
na sila mismo may mga
kasalanan,
then they let go
of the stones
na supposedly
ibabato nila
sa tao na yun,
sa babae na yun,
binitawan nila.
Starting with
the old people.
Tapos yung pinakahuli,
yung mga bata na,
they left.
Why the old people?
Bakit sila yung
naunang umalis
at binitawan

yung bato?
Why the old people?
Why?
Because they are
wiser.
Mas matalino
yung mga matandanda.
Mas matagal na sila
sa mundo
kaysa mga bata.
So, mas matalino sila.
So, they let go of it.
Secondly,
why did the old people
go first?
Sa sobrang tagal
sa mundo,
mas maraming kasalanan nila
kaysa mga bata.
They're wiser
and they have sinned
much more
than the rest.
And so,
instead of condemning,
they let go of that.
And they leave
one by one.
When everyone left,
Jesus asked the woman,
Woman,
where is your accuser?
Sana yung mga
accuser sa'yo.
Sabi niya,
wala na sila, Lord.
And this is what
I love about Jesus
when he said to the woman,
sabi niya,
Okay,
did no one condemn you?
And the woman said,
No.
No one condemned me.
Why would no one
condemn you?
Because God
intervened.
When God intervenes
in your life,
it changes everything.
Why did no one
condemn you?
Has no one
condemned you?
No one, Lord.
Then Jesus said
to the woman,
Neither I
condemn you.
Neither I.
The only person
who has

no sin
and worthy
to stone her
to death
would not
stone her
to death.
Instead of
judgment,
Jesus
chose to have
mercy.
Mercy
triumphs
over
judgment
all the time.
But then Jesus said
to her,
You go
and do not
sin
anymore.
Yes,
God is merciful
but he does
not
condone
to sin.
Leave that
sin alone.
Don't repeat
it.
That's what my
mother said.
If you promise me
you'll not do it again,
I will not tell.
I will forget
about the sin.
Don't
do it
again.
So the
compassion of
Christ is not
just a feeling
although
compassion is a
very deep
feeling of
sympathy but
it's so deep
that it moves
you to action
and that
action is an
action of
kindness
and mercy.
And finally,
If you
cannot
show

compassion
to your
brothers
who are
like you
a sinner,
you will
never grow
in your
spiritual
life.

I don't
care if you
memorize the
Bible.

I don't
care if you
pray every
day, 24
hours every
day, if
you cannot
show

compassion
to your
brother and
sister who
sin,
you haven't
grow an
inch
in your
spiritual
life.

Amen?

And we
will never
grow mature
in our
spiritual
life if
we have
never learned
to be
compassionate,
especially to
those who
are failing,
especially to
those who
are erring,
especially for
those who
are sinning.

Our job
is not to
judge.

Our job
is to
uplift those
who have
fallen.

To
bring them

up, to
encourage
them.
Fight
them.
There
is always
hope in
Jesus.
God is
faithful.
God is
faithful,
merciful and
kind,
slow to
anger and
abounding in
steadfast love.
This is the
kind of God
you have.
And when
you stand
up,
stop
sinning
anymore.
Fall
in love
with God
and you
will stop
sinning.
Fall in
love with
Jesus and
you will
hate sin.
Not the
sinner,
you'll hate
sin.
So I
pray that
today,
this is the
last Sunday
of Lent,
next Sunday
this will
enter
Holy Week.
Let's
continue to
prepare your
heart.
Discipline
your heart.
To
show compassion.
Not
judging other
people,

especially in
church.

The more we
get close to
each other,
the more we
walk together,
the more our
sins are
exposed.

God is
exposing the
sin because
God wants to
heal the
sin.

It's not
for you to
judge.

If you
see the
sin of
your
brother,
God
doesn't
call you
to judge
him or
put him
down.

That is
not your
calling and
God will
never call
us to
judge
somebody and
condemn
somebody.

No,
that's not
our job.

We are
all sinners
here.

Be a
blessing to
others as
well.

Please
stand,
fellow
sinners.